

NEBRASKA WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP REPORT

Released 3-14-50 - 11:00 A.M.

Week Ending 3-13-50

WEATHER Temperatures averaged below normal, with near or below zero near close of period except in the southeast. Unseasonably warm at beginning, followed by blizzard over central and east and extreme southwest portions on the 7th, with one of the most severe general storms in State records. Winds of 50 to 60 miles per hour continued for hours, with gusts reported up to 75 to 100 miles per hour. Snowfall attending the windstorm generally 1 to 3 inches or less, but 6 to 12 inches fell in the north central portion with heavy drifting. General miscellaneous damage resulted from the winds. The precipitation for the period exceeded an inch in several central and northeastern localities, but was light in the Panhandle and the extreme southeast.

CROPS The high winds damaged wheat in spots and particularly where the top growth had not covered the ground. Some abandonment in spots is expected but most of the damaged wheat should recover if ample moisture is received instead of high winds. Most damage was reported from the Panhandle and from fields on sandy soil in western Nebraska where more moisture is needed.

Inclement weather stopped farm field work which had just started before the blizzard came. Some oats had been planted in southern counties from Thayer eastward to Richardson and Nemaha counties. Some red clover had also been seeded. The previously reported surplus of farm labor is decreasing as the demand increases, but the storm slowed the demand somewhat.

Corn allotments are bringing shifts in crops. Oats and barley are expected to take up considerable of the acreage that would otherwise have been planted to corn. But sorghum, grass and legume acreage will also be increased; also, soybeans, sugar beets and safflower in western Nebraska. The dry edible bean acreage allotment in western Nebraska is down about 23,000 acres which will permit increased planting of sugar beets, alfalfa and other crops. The potato allotment is down very little.

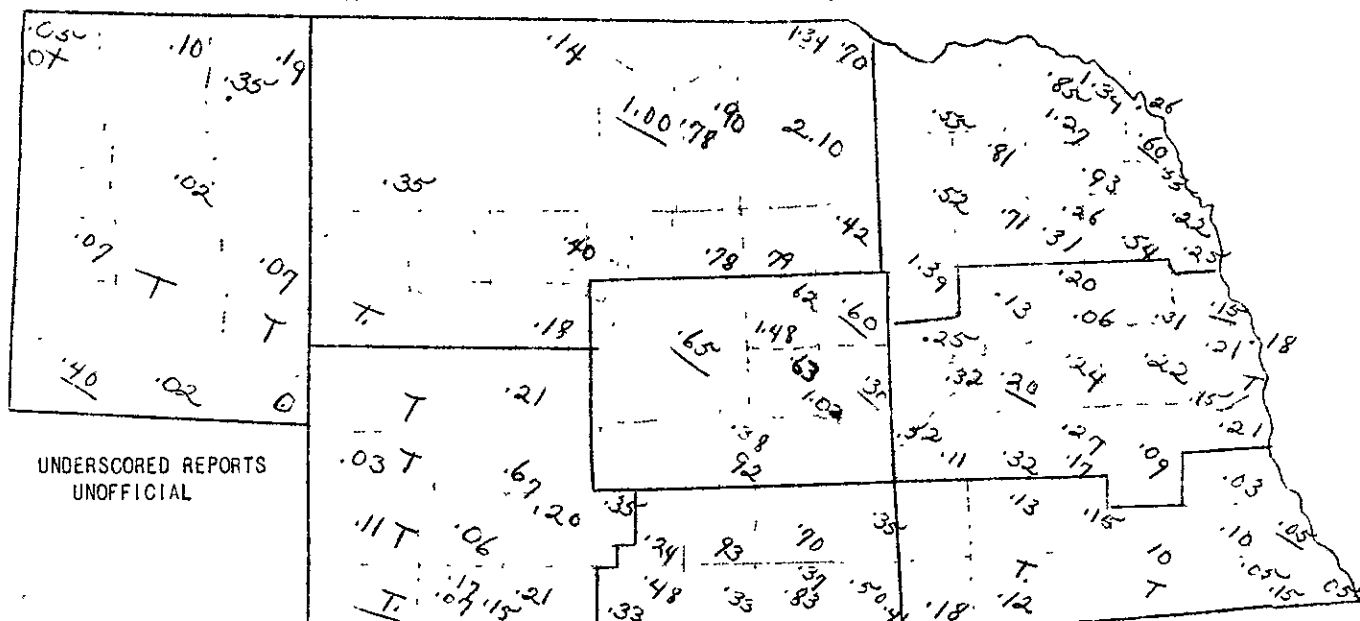
BLIZZARD OF MARCH 7 The brunt of the blizzard struck north central Nebraska, although the effects were apparent throughout the State. The heaviest snowfall and winds occurred in the area including Keyapaha, Brown and Custer counties eastward through Sherman, Greeley, Nance, Madison, Wayne and Dixon counties. Part of the counties had additional snow by the close of the week and those having precipitation of about an inch or more were Brown, Rock, Loup, Garfield, Valley, Sherman, Boyd, Holt, Nance, Pierce, Cedar, Dixon and Wayne. Snowfall ranged from 6 to 12 inches in north central Nebraska. While the storm was preceded by some rain and sleet, there was considerable snow and serious drifting ranging up to 12 feet or more in height.

While winds were reported up to 100 miles per hour in this area, for the State as a whole they ranged from 50 to 60 miles per hour with gusts reported from 75 to 100 miles per hour. High wind together with the snow caused loss of cattle that drifted with the storm into lakes and creeks. Some were reported as having smothered in the snow drifts. The losses on individual farms varied from light to serious loss in some cases. Losses of newly born calves and pigs were heavy. There was also considerable loss of baby chicks after electric power failed. Boyd county reported a terrific blizzard with the highest winds ever reported with many buildings and windmills wrecked or damaged. Roads were blocked with drifts up to 10 feet and power and communications lines still were disrupted by the close of the week. Brown county reported the worst blizzard in any of the past years. Garfield county said the blizzard was the worst that was ever experienced. Farm folks in Antelope county had not recovered by the close of the week from the wind and snow storm and side roads were still blocked. Knox county reported huge drifts with electricity off for 30 hours. Wayne county reported many trees, windmills and small buildings blown down. Howard county reported broken windows, damage to trees, buildings, and windmills, and that 7 metal grain bins at St. Paul were blown approximately 2 miles. Nance county reported damage to windmills, small buildings, roofs and several steel grain bins and some livestock killed in wrecked barns. Many reports of damage came from counties outside of the central storm area, while other counties reported considerable damage, one of the worst being York county, where the average damage per farm was estimated at \$200 with 100 windmills lost, many small buildings as well as fences and hay sheds damaged. While many counties mentioned soil erosion from wind, Merrick county reported some gain as well as loss of soil in stating that "soil from Kansas and parts of Nebraska that were migrating north Monday were grounded by the blizzard Tuesday." In other words, soil that goes up finally comes down but the distribution may be unequal.

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LIVESTOCK The outstanding feature of the week was the loss of livestock, particularly in north central Nebraska where the blizzard was severe, probably worse than that of the past season except that it was of short duration. Older cattle were lost as well as newly born calves, pigs and baby chicks due to the lack of power for heating. Kearney county reported not only loss to livestock but some pheasants froze in the storm. Fortunately, livestock were in good condition but the sudden change from mild weather and the rain that preceded the blizzard aggravated the ill effects of the storm on cattle. Interest in hog production is evidenced by payment of \$20 to \$22 per 100 pounds for bred gilts. More farm flocks of sheep than for a number of years were reported from Sarpy county.

PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING MARCH 10, 1950



HIGHEST AND LOWEST TEMPERATURES (FOR 24 HOURS ENDING 6:30 A.M.)

		MARCH		8TH		9TH		10TH		11TH		12TH		13TH	
		7TH		MAX	MIN	MAX	MIN	MAX	MIN	MAX	MIN	MAX	MIN	MAX	MIN
NW	CHADRON	60	27	34	-1	39	16	25	15	18	6	13	-12	16	-9
	SCOTTSBLUFF	56	25	32	4	41	25	52	21	28	5	14	-8	22	-15
	SIDNEY	57	21	31	2	43	22	56	18	26	6	15	3	19	-7
N-C	BURWELL	68	28	--	--	22	15	--	--	--	--	11	0	--	--
	VALENTINE	--	--	--	--	28	18	29	16	20	6	8	-12	13	-11
NE	NORFOLK	70	35	41	5	18	12	30	19	24	9	15	-1	11	-2
	SIOUX CITY	69	44	50	8	20	12	26	18	26	10	18	-1	17	-1
CEN.	GRAND ISLAND	71	30	41	8	24	17	43	22	26	12	17	3	14	4
E-C	LINCOLN	75	36	56	9	26	18	40	22	28	17	21	6	19	8
	OMAHA	71	42	55	10	22	17	34	21	29	19	23	6	18	8
SW	HAYES CENTER	67	26	28	7	33	22	53	21	30	10	18	5	15	0
	NORTH PLATTE	68	26	37	8	32	23	48	22	25	10	14	5	12	-5

WEATHER BUREAU TELEGRAPHIC REPORT OF PRECIPITATION FOR WEEK ENDING MARCH 13, 1950

EASTERN DIVISION

GRAND ISLAND .49
LINCOLN .12
NORFOLK .69
OMAHA .18
SIOUX CITY .26

CENTRAL DIVISION

BURWELL .33
NORTH PLATTE .32
VALENTINE .23

WESTERN DIVISION

CHADRON .12
HAYES CENTER .08
SCOTTSBLUFF .13
SIDNEY .11

(ISSUED BY THE WEATHER BUREAU AND THE STATE AND FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS OF AGRICULTURE)

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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